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THE DAILY PRESS' OFFICE
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THE DAILY PRESS' OFFICE
All prints are read and all work superintended by Englishmen. Always equal and generally superior to that done anywhere else. Estimates given.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED: For four hours each day 10 to 12 and 2 to 5 for thirty days, two adjoined FURNISHED ROOMS suitable for consultation. Must be in a desirable and respectable neighbourhood near Queen's Road.

Address, stating terms, to

"ALTO."

Care of Office of this Paper, Hongkong, 21st November, 1898. [2495]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to Sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION,

for Account of the Concerned,

TUESDAY, the 29th November, 1898,

at Noon, on board,

of Wardley Street Wharf.

"MORNING STAR."

Tonage, Gross 27 tons, Net 22 tons, Length 64 feet, Breadth 5 feet 5 inches, Depth 5 feet 9 inches, and Licensed to carry 84 Passengers. She is in good condition.

The Launch will be moored off Wardley Wharf on day of Sale.

For further particulars, apply to the "Star" Ferry Co. and/or to the Auctioneers.

Terms—As Usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 21st November, 1898. [2497]

FOR YOKOHAMA AND KOBE.

THE Steamship

"BAMBERG,"

Captain T. Voss, will be despatched for the above port TO-DAY, the 21st inst., at Noon.

For Freight apply to

SIEGMSEN & CO.

Hongkong, 18th November, 1898. [2493]

FOR KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Steamship

"AMERICA MARU"

Captain Cope, will be despatched for the above ports TO-DAY, the 21st inst., at Noon, instead of as previously advertised.

The steamer has superior accommodation for Passengers and is fitted with the Electric Light.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SHEWAN, TOME & CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 18th November, 1898. [2494]

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAM-SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA DIRECT.

THE Company's Steamship

"ESMERALDA."

Captain G. A. Taylor, will be despatched for the above port TO-DAY, the 21st inst., at 5 P.M. This steamer has superior accommodation for Passengers, carries a Doctor, and is fitted with the Electric Light.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS, TAYLOR & CO.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 18th November, 1898. [2495]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY, AND

FOOCHOW.

THE Company's Steamship

"HAITAN."

Captain Hall, will be despatched for the above ports TO-MORROW, the 22nd inst., at Day Light.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS, TAYLOR & CO.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 21st November, 1898. [2498]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR AMOY AND TAMSUI.

THE Company's Steamship

"FORMOSA."

Captain Milroy, will be despatched for the above ports TO-MORROW, the 22nd inst., at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS, TAYLOR & CO.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 21st November, 1898. [2499]

JUST LANDED.

A LARGE STOCK OF FRESH PROVISIONS by all the best Manufacturers.

All Kinds of SWEETS, CHOCOLATE, CREAMS, and

TOPES, PUSSY-FUNDINGS and DRY FEASTS.

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR CARDS. All at very moderate Prices. Trial Orders solicited.

P. N. JEEBLEY & CO.,

190, Hollywood Road.

Hongkong, 18th November, 1898. [2485]

VICTORIA LODGE

OF HONGKONG, NO. 1,026.

REGULAR MEETING of the

VICTORIA LODGE will be held at the FREE-MASONS' HALL TO-MORROW, the 23rd inst., at 8.30 for 9 P.M. precisely. Visiting Brothers are cordially invited to attend.

Hongkong, 18th November, 1898. [2486]

WANTED.

FOR our Canton Branch, MANAGER

concurrent with the General Export Trade.

MELCHERS & CO.

Hongkong, 18th November, 1898. [2487]

WANTED.—LESSONS IN SPANISH STATEMENTS.

"ALPHA."

Care of Hongkong Daily Press Office.

Hongkong, 18th November, 1898. [2470]

NATIONAL ASSURANCE COMPANY OF ENGLAND.

ESTABLISHED 1522.

CAPITAL 21,000,000

Funds (over) 500,000

The Undersigned, having been appointed

AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE or Current Risks.

RÄDECKER & CO.,

Arcade, Hongkong, 18th November, 1898. [2488]

KOWLOON EXTENSION.

JUST RECEIVED.

A NEW MAP of HONGKONG, KOW-

LOON and ADJACENT TERRI-

TORIES showing the Boundary under the

New Convention, with the Towns, Villages,

&c. Prepared from Authoritative Sources and

Printed in Color. Price 5/-

To be had at Mrs. KELLY & WALKER,

Daily Press Office.

Hongkong, 22nd October, 1898. [2489]

AUCTIONS

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions

to Sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION

TO-DAY

(MONDAY), the 21st November, 1898

at 3 o'clock P.M.

at the Steamer's Wharf opposite Pottinger Street.

THE Steamer's Wharf opposite Pottinger Street.

Hongkong, 18th November, 1898. [2472]

FOR SALE.

A CAMERA 5 by 7, nearly new. Latest

Improved American make, compact;

suitable for a traveller.

Address,

Hongkong, 18th November, 1898. [2474]

THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

of the Company will be held at the Company's

Offices, Nos. 38 and 40, QUEEN'S ROAD

CENTRAL, HONGKONG, on the 23rd day of

November, 1898, at twelve o'clock Noon, for the

purpose of confirming the Resolutions which

passed on the 5th November, 1898,

(1) That the agreement dated the 17th

day of October, 1898, made between the

Company of the one part, and Queen

Mines Limited of the other part, for the

use of the undertaking of the Company to

Queen Mine, Limited, for £25,000, to be

paid and satisfied by the allotment of

100,000 shares of £100 each in Queen

Mine, Limited, of which each share, to be

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INTIMATIONS

BROWN, JONES & CO.
DEALERS IN
AMERICAN AND ITALIAN MARBLE
AND HONGKONG GRANITE.
CEMETERY MEMORIALS.
Designs and Prices on application.
Office, 47, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL. (2704)



A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

AS USUAL AT THIS SEASON OF THE
YEAR WE ARE OFFERING FOR
SALE A SPECIAL SELECTION
OF THE PUREST AND
BEST

CONFECTIONERY

FROM THE SIMPLEST QUALITY TO
THAT OF THE MOST RECHERCHE
DESCRIPTION.

INTENDING SENDERS OF
CHRISTMAS

AND
NEW YEAR CARDS
BY THE MAIL ON THE 26TH INSTANT,
WILL FIND IN OUR STOCKS
A TASTEFUL, PLEASING AND
REFINED ASSORTMENT.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED 1841.

[24]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS
Only communications relating to the news columns
should be addressed to THE EDITOR.
Correspondents forward information and addresses
with a view to publication, but not
as evidence of fact.
All letters for publication should be written on one
sheet of the paper used.

Any previously signed communications that have
already appeared in other papers will be inserted.

Orders for extra copies of DAILY PRESS should be
sent before 12 m. on day of publication.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, November 21st 1898.

The Indian and Ceylon tea planters use
as one of their arguments against a high
exchange value of the rupee the bounty that
cheap silver is supposed to confer upon
China tea, thereby favouring the competition of
the latter. So for the bounty, if there is
any bounty in the matter, has done little good
to China tea, the trade in which is steadily
declining, the advantages of cheap silver
weighing but as a feather in the scale
against the heavy disadvantages of excessive
taxation and primitive methods of cultivation
and preparation. Mr. F. E. TAYLOR,
the Statistical Secretary of the Imperial
Maritime Customs, in his report on the
foreign trade of China for 1897, expresses a
belief in the possibility of reviving the tea
trade. "I believe," he says, "that the
experiment commenced at Foochow, and
shortly to be initiated at Hankow, will,
if sufficient care be taken to procure close
to the factory, eventually result in a success
which will encourage the adoption of
similar methods in other centres of the
tea industry and will regain for this im-
portant trade a large measure of its former
prosperity." It is possible that this
opinion may be justified by the result,
provided that with improved methods of
growth and preparation there also goes some
considerable measure of relief from the
present scale of taxation, for the industry
could not possibly flourish, however well
conducted as regards cultivation and pre-
paration, so long as the State continued to lay
excessive burdens upon it.

Relief from illegal or excessive taxation
is one of the results that may be expected
from the direct participation of foreigners
in the industry. Mr. CARLES, the Consul
at Foochow, in his last report refers to
the Foochow Tea Improvement Company's
plantation at Doon Ling and says:—"The
local Government, which is apprehensive
that tea may be brought down
under the transit pass, the duties under
which would be paid to the central Go-
vernment. . . . The intention, as I
am assured by the officials, is to underbid
transit dues." Chinese assurances do not
count for much themselves, but where
foreigners have a direct interest in the
business it may be possible, by means of the
transit pass, to keep taxation within
moderate limits, though the lekin authori-
ties may be expected to make a stout fight
over it.

In the meantime the industry is steadily
declining. Mr. BRENNAN, in the Canton
Consular report for last year, incorporates
some remarks by "gentlemen of experience
in the trade" on various staples of export.
The authority on tea, after noting the
decrease in the export, goes on to say:
"Scented essences are used solely for blending.
Formerly this blending was done by
numerous retailers throughout England,
now it is in the hands of two or three
large blenders, and should they decide to
exclude scented tea from their blends the
export from Canton would entirely cease.
The decrease is not due to a deterioration
in quality; in fact, during the past three
years these teas have been rather
purer, but they are being pushed out
by the Indian and Ceylon growths." These
latter pay no export duty, whereas the
Canton duties and taxes amount to as
much as 35 per cent. of the cost price.
It may be remembered that in the Amoy
Consular report for 1896 some remarks on
the tea trade of the port, supplied by Mr.
FRANK CASE, were incorporated. Mr. CASE,
after remarking that the crop of Amoy
Oolong in 1896 amounted to 1,200,000 lbs.,
a shortage of 55 per cent. on the previous
year, went on to say:—"An equally
marked decline is expected in 1897, after
which the article will probably cease to
appear as an item in our trade returns, as
the tea districts are being rapidly thrown
out of cultivation, and most of them are
irretrievably ruined." The reason, he said,
was not far to seek: the entire crop
realized \$126,000, while the lekin paid
amounted to \$20,000 and the export duty to
\$35,000, or a total of \$65,000, considerably
more than one-third of the value of the
crop.

Turning now to the report of Mr. MORE-
HOUSE, the Commissioner of Customs at
Amoy, for last year, we find Mr. CASE's
prognostication amply fulfilled. Mr. MORE-
HOUSE says:—"In all probability this trade
will be the last in which reference
will be made to Amoy tea as an important
factor in our trade. Twenty-five years
ago 55,800 piculs were exported; this year
the total is 12,127 piculs, and even at pre-
sent writing there are 1,200 piculs remain-
ing unsold in the hands of the native tea
men, with a very remote chance of their
ever finding a purchaser." Mr. MORE-
HOUSE adds that the export and lekin day
are factors which militate against the hopes
of the most sanguine, and that it is now
too late to propose remedial measures which
would resuscitate the already moribund leaf,
formerly the leading article of export; but
goes on to say that "The native growers
are not entirely free from blame; of late
years they have been content to produce
any article which would sell, but the
new United States law establishing stand-
ards has practically shut out the article
as now produced." The deterioration of
the quality, however, may be set down as
more or less due to the excessive taxation,
for notwithstanding the experience to the
contrary given in the Canton Consular
report, it may be assumed as a general rule
that when any trade is being taxed out of
existence the producers will be driven to
pinch the quality until, as at Amoy, the
inevitable collapse comes. Prohibitive
import duties imposed for the protection of
home industries may admit of some defence
of economic grounds, but not of
existing by prohibitive duties?

While that policy continues in respect of
the War Department, Tea regiments
have been ordered to be in readiness for service
in the tropics.

SPAIN AND THE CESSATION OF
THE PHILIPPINES.

The Spanish Commissioners have presented
a memorandum refusing to discuss the sur-
vival of the sovereignty of the Philippines.

RUSSIA AND GREAT BRITAIN
IN CHINA.

Mr. Chamberlain, speaking at Manchester,
said that an agreement with Russia regarding
China was to be desired, but no agreement
could be permanent unless in the interest of
both Powers. In regard to the maintenance
of the principle of the open door, Great Britain
must find common interests with Japan, Ger-
many, and the United States.

LONGON, 18th November, 1898.
THE DREYFUS CASE.

It is believed in legal circles in Paris that the
Court de Cassation will shortly order the return
of Captain Dreyfus.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

H. M. S. Formidable, the largest battle-ship
afloat, has been launched at Portsmouth.

GREAT BRITAIN AND CHINA.

Lord Hardinge has ordered the enrollment
of a battalion of one thousand Chinese to serve
at Weihaiwei under British Officers.

THE INTER-COLONIAL
SHOOTING MATCH.

HONGKONG AGAIN VICTORIOUS.

On Sunday morning Mr. M. S. Northcote,
H. M. Secy. of the Hongkong Rifles Association,
announced a winner of the competition
in the inter-colonial shooting match.

Hongkong's score was 934 and Singapore's
92, so that Hongkong is again the winner. Of
the nine contests which have taken place Hong-
kong has now won six, Singapore two, and
Shanghai one.

The Singapore Free Press of November 11th says:—"Examining the eight years' statistics
of the annual inter-colonial shooting match
in Hongkong, Shanghai, and Singapore,
it appears that the former two have
made great progress, while the latter
has not improved further, but has
done as well as Singapore." The
difference between the Gas Company and the Electric
Company for the purchase by the former of
the latter's concern is the same.

A Bit of the British Empire" is the title of
a book of views of Hongkong published by
Moses, Kelly and Walsh. The views, which
are 15 in number, are taken on the
various sides of the island, and are
most interesting.

The Chinese Gazette announces that
Commander Hastings is to be Acting Harbour
Master (in addition to his other duties), with
effect from 12th inst., during the temporary
absence on account of sickness of Commander
Brewsey.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative
Council will be held tomorrow, when the Captain
Superintendent of Police will inform the
Court of the further provision for the safety
of the colony.

The Acting Attorney
General will introduce a Bill to authorize the
imposition of fees for this issue by the Govern-
ment of Hongkong of certain certificates to
certain classes of Chinese who are desirous
of going to Manilla.

Mr. Erich Georg, in his Share List
of Saturday, says:—"A fair business has
been done during the week under review,
and several stocks show a further im-
provement in values, principally Bank shares,
Chinese Traders, Canton, Insurances,
Chungking, Hotels and Electric." Hong-
kong Electric has improved further, but
as yet did not reach its former high point.
The time is approaching for a
renewal in the crops and plowing the fields and without the
ever useful water buffalo the districts will suffer
heavily.

THE BUENOS AIRES" DEPARTS FOR SPAIN.

The Spanish transport *Buenos Aires* has sailed
for Iloilo and Spain carrying 703 Spaniards
and prisoners, as well as a number of officers.

The scene at the dock was a peculiarity
of the Spanish expedition which was passing
through these provinces, it became necessary
to seize the bullock and several boats for trans-
portation. Promises were made to return them
and make good for those that were lost, but
as yet did not do so, and the Spaniards have not
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